

WILLIAM ROLLEY.

---

JUNE 14, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6502.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6502) granting an increase of pension to William Rolley, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$17 to \$24 per month the pension of William Rolley, of Morris, Ill., late a private in Company G, Thirty sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, who served from August 1, 1861, to September 22, 1864, and was honorably discharged. He was wounded at Chickamauga, Ga., September 20, 1863.

It is shown by the testimony of the captain of his company that claimant was shot through the right eye at the battle of Chickamauga. Dr. A. F. Hand, examining surgeon, Morris, Ill., by whom he was examined October 21, 1864, certifies:

Applicant was struck by buckshot at internal canthus of left eye, shot passing through and under nose and out of right eye, entirely destroying the sight of latter and materially injuring that of the former. Disability, two-thirds, and permanent.

Soldier was pensioned at \$5.33 $\frac{1}{2}$  per month from date of discharge; increased to \$8 from March 4, 1867; to \$12 from March 19, 1884, and to \$17 from December 4, 1891.

On December 15, 1890, in disposing of the claim for increase, the medical referee said:

Alleged affection of left eye is a congenital refractive defect.

At his last examination by the board of surgeons at Ottawa, Ill., June 15, 1892, claimant was rated twelve-eighteenths for loss of sight of one eye and ten-eighteenths for impaired vision of the other, and twelve eighteenths for double inguinal hernia. He was shown by that examination to have mitral insufficiency of the heart, for which he was also rated twelve eighteenths.

Evidence filed with this committee tends to show that claimant is nearly if not quite totally disabled for the performance of manual labor. He has made no effort to secure increase through the Pension Office since the claim that was filed in 1889 and adjudicated in February, 1893, when his rate was increased to \$17 per month. The evidence on

file does not clearly show the degree of his disability from impairment of sight due to wound which he received in service. If he is totally disabled for manual labor by reason of loss of sight of one eye and impaired sight of the other, he is entitled to a pension of \$30 per month through the Pension Office, and if his disability from said cause is equivalent to the loss of the hand or foot, he is entitled to a pension of \$24 per month.

It appears from the evidence that claimant does some clerical work, or at least that he has until very recently. He is 74 years of age, and his financial condition is not shown aside from the fact that he is in receipt of a pension of \$17 per month.

After a careful review of the evidence in the case, your committee are of the opinion that this soldier suffers from a disability equivalent to the loss of a hand or a foot, for which the rate is fixed by law at \$24 per month.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 7 strike out the word "grant" and insert in lieu thereof the word "pay."

In line 7 strike out the words "of thirty" and insert in lieu thereof the words "at the rate of twenty-four."

At the end of line 8 add the following: "in lieu of the pension he now receives."

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

In the matter of request of William Rolley, late private, Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, for special bill for relief now before Congress for wounds in the Army and loss of sight.

On this 14th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Dr. G. T. Nelson, aged 47 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

Mr. William Rolley, aforesaid, is now afflicted with a double inguinal hernia, for which a truss is constantly worn. His sight in right eye is entirely destroyed from the effect of a gunshot wound received while in the service, and sight is now failing from left eye so that he is in danger of being totally blind. He has a weak (senile) heart with rapid action and occasional faint spells. This disability of his sight alone nearly incapacitates him from any labor, he being a copyist and writer.

His post-office address is Morris, Grundy County, Ill.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

GERHARD T. NELSON, M. D.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant, and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same.

I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and that said affiant is personally known to me and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

N. MCBRIDE, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

In the matter of request of William Rolley, late private, Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, for special bill for relief, now before Congress, for wounds in the Army and loss of sight.

On this 14th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, N. McBride, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths,

Dr. A. E. Palmer, aged 51 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

I have this day thoroughly examined the above-mentioned William Rolley, and find that he has complete loss of sight in his right eye and about one-third vision in his left eye. He also has double inguinal hernia, necessitating the constant wearing of a truss to retain the same. He also has thickening of the valves in the left side of the heart. From the above causes the said William Rolley is almost entirely incapacitated from following his usual occupation, that of copyist.

His post-office address is Morris, Ill.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

A. E. PALMER, M. D.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy*, ss:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same.

I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

N. MCBRIDE, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy*, ss:

In the matter of request of William Rolley, late private, Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, for special bill for relief, now before Congress, for wounds in the Army and loss of sight.

On this 15th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, A. R. Jordan, aged 54 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he is the county judge of said county and has been intimately acquainted with said late soldier, William Rolley, of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, in the late war, and know that it is generally understood here that said Rolley lost his right eye in the battle of Chickamauga by a gunshot wound, and that owing to sympathetic affection, as he believes, of his left eye, the vision of the remaining eye has become much impaired, and unable much of the time to a great extent to follow his occupation, he being a copyist. I also understand he has a double hernia and heart disease, in addition to his eye disabilities. I further testify that Rolley is a man of moral habits.

His post-office address is Morris, Grundy Co., Ill.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case, and am not concerned in its prosecution.

A. R. JORDAN.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy*, ss:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same.

I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

N. MCBRIDE, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy*, ss:

In the matter of request of William Rolley, late private, Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, for special bill for relief now before Congress for wounds in the Army and loss of sight.

On this — day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, N. McBride, notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, J. C. Carr, aged 62 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he is cashier of the Grundy County National Bank; that he has been intimately acquainted with the above-named William Rolley, late private, Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, for the last thirty years, and is fully satisfied that he

## WILLIAM ROLLEY.

lost the sight of his right eye in the battle of Chickamauga from a gunshot wound, and that from sympathetic affection, as he believes, of his left eye, his vision of said left eye has become much impaired, and he is unable much of the time to a great extent to follow his occupation, he being a writer and copyist. I further testify that the said William Rolley is a man of good moral habits.

His post-office address is Morris, Grundy County.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

J. C. CARR,  
*Cashier Grundy County National Bank.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

In the matter of request for special legislation by William Rolley, late first sergeant Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, in bill before Congress.

On this 15th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, the clerk of the county court in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Nathl. McBride, aged 75 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he is and has been county surveyor of said county for thirty-three years, and has been intimately acquainted with said Rolley for a period of more than thirty years, and has for the past eighteen years been employed by this affiant a portion of the time in his office as a copyist when able to assist in that capacity. In consequence of the loss of his right eye, and the weak condition of his left eye, at times he is unable to act in that capacity to any purpose; at other times, especially in light, bright sunshine weather he can, with great care and heavy black lines, do some work for a limited time in daylight. I understand these disabilities were caused by gunshot wound while in the military service. Mr. Rolley is a man free from vicious habits, and I am satisfied his condition of temperate and moral living are not the cause of these disabilities.

His post-office address is Morris, Grundy County, Ill.

I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

NATHL. MCBRIDE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same.

I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution, and that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

W. SCOTT PIERCE,  
*Clerk of the County Court.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

In the matter of my request for special bill before Congress for addition to pension certificate No. 35096.

On this 15th day of December, A. D. 1897, personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, duly authorized to administer oaths, William Rolley, aged 73 years, a resident of Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he is the identical soldier, William Rolley, above named, who was a member of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga on the 20th of September, 1863, completely destroying the sight of the right eye and greatly impairing the vision of the left eye, in fact impairing so much his vision as to preclude him from earning a livelihood at his occupation (that of a copyist), and having been rejected for additional rating, which he believes he is justly entitled to, and therefore prays relief.

His post-office address is Morris, Grundy County, Ill.

I further declare that I have an interest in said case and am concerned in its prosecution.

WILLIAM ROLLEY.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Grundy, ss:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant, and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same.

I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution; and that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a credible person.

[SEAL.]

N. McBRIDE, *Notary Public.*

MORRIS, ILL., *December 7, 1897.*

DEAR SIR: I wrote you during the last session of Congress in regard to the introduction of a bill for the increase of pension for the loss of one eye and injury to the other by gunshot wound. I inclosed you a bill that was introduced by Senator Ingalls when he was a member of the Senate, but which did not pass. I fear now that a general bill would not pass. I would therefore ask you to get a private bill passed for me. You will remember me. I saw you in Aurora on the day of the reunion of the Thirty-sixth Illinois Regiment. I was first sergeant of Company G of said regiment. I was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, destroying the sight of the right eye and injuring the other to such an extent that I am now nearly blind. I am now receiving \$17 per month. I have applied for an increase of my pension several times and been rejected every time, with the claim that I am receiving all that I am entitled to as the law now stands. I will be 74 years old in January next, and do not expect to live many years. I consider my loss equal, if not greater, than the loss of a leg or arm.

I therefore ask as a great favor that you will do so at your earliest convenience.

And oblige, yours, etc.,

WM. ROLLEY,

*First Sergeant Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry.*

(My certificate No., 35096.)

HON. A. J. HOPKINS,

*House of Representatives.*

MORRIS, ILL., *March 26, 1897.*

DEAR SIR: I was a first sergeant of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry; I served three years. I was wounded at the battle of Chickamanga September 20, 1863, by a gunshot wound through the nose, destroying the sight of the right eye and injuring the sight of the left eye, so much so that after my return home I had to give up my occupation of a farmer (on a farm of which I was part owner) because the heat and dust affected the remaining eye so much that I feared I would go blind. On my first application for a pension I was examined by Dr. A. F. Hland, of Morris, Ill., then examining surgeon, who reported my case as the loss of the right eye and the severe injury of the left, so much so that I could not recognize my acquaintances across the street, and placed my disability at three-fourths, or \$6 per month.

He, a short time afterwards, at my request, made a statement of my case, leaving the Commissioner to set the rate, \$8 per month, being the highest rate then allowed, at which rate I was allowed up to April, 1884, since which time I have received \$16 per month up to the 4th day of December, 1891, at which time I was granted an increase to \$17 per month, which is my present rate of pension.

I have made application for increase three different times, and have been rejected each time with the statement that I was receiving the full amount I was entitled to under the law as it now stands. Now, the rate I have been receiving has been very inadequate for my loss, for on account of my injury I have not been able to engage in any business which required the constant or even partial use of the eyes (or one eye, as in my case). My family physician advised me not to read or write, for fear I lose my sight entirely.

On my examination by said family physician, Dr. J. F. Oaks, he told me I was going blind, which has been my greatest fear. There certainly can be no more serious loss than the loss of sight. There have been frequent increases for the loss of limbs, which I think just, but the loss of sight has been neglected. I have refrained from asking for the passage of a private bill, hoping that a general bill would be passed to reach mine and similar cases. I would refer you to the evidence in my case in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions. I ask to have either a general bill or a private bill passed to reach my case. I think the rate should not be less than \$36 per month. I would ask that you take what steps would be best, in your judgment. A bill was introduced by J. J. Ingalls, which you will find inclosed, in December, 1889, and one by John A. Logan about the same time, but they both died

in the hands of the Committee on Pensions, who failed to report them for consideration or passage.

Very respectfully,

Hon. A. T. HOPKINS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

WILLIAM ROLLEY,  
*Morris, Grundy County, Ill.*

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,  
*Washington, D. C., November 12, 1897.*

SIR: In response to your inquiry relative to the case above cited, I have the honor to inform you that the soldier, William Rolley, is a pensioner under the act of July 14, 1862, at the rate of \$17 per month.

Very respectfully,

L. M. KELLEY,  
*Deputy Commissioner.*

Hon. A. J. HOPKINS,  
*House of Representatives, City.*

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,  
*Washington, D. C., June 10, 1887.*

SIR: The claim of William Rolley (No. 351096) for increase of pension is rejected upon the ground that he is now receiving the full amount of pension to which he is entitled under the law for the disability resulting from loss of sight of right eye and disease of left eye, result of gunshot wound.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. BLACK, *Commissioner.*

○